

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A control method of an image forming apparatus which forms a color image on a predetermined printing medium by an electrophotography method, comprising:

a first image forming step of forming an image by performing halftoning while reducing a pixel value indicative of a printing color component at a predetermined rate;

a second image forming step of forming an image by performing halftoning without reducing a pixel value indicative of a printing color component, while reducing an amount of exposure light used in the electrophotography method at a predetermined rate;

a determining step of determining whether or not a thin-line-emphasis image forming is designated; and

a control step of controlling the apparatus to perform image forming by either said first image forming step or said second image forming step, based on a determination result of said determining step.

2. The control method of an image forming apparatus according to claim 1, said apparatus receiving printing data from an external host computer,

wherein in said determining step, determination is made based on a predetermined command included in the printing data.

3. The control method of an image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein in said determining step, determination is made in page unit.

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4. The control method of an image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein in the host computer, a printer driver started upon a printing operation is installed, and the thin-line emphasis is selected in a  
10 setting screen of the printer driver.

5. The control method of an image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein in the host computer, a printer driver started upon a printing operation is  
15 installed, data transferred from an upper process is analyzed, statistical data is taken for each type of data in page unit, and in a case where it is determined that the data includes many thin lines and small texts, a command designating a thin-line emphasis mode is  
20 automatically generated without user's designation, otherwise a command designating a non thin-line emphasis mode is generated.

6. The control method of an image forming apparatus  
25 according to claim 2, wherein a thin-line emphasis mode or a non thin-line emphasis mode can be switched in accordance with the type of objects.

7. An image forming apparatus which forms a color image on a predetermined printing medium by an electrophotography method, comprising:

5 first image forming means for forming an image by performing halftoning while reducing a pixel value indicative of a printing color component at a predetermined rate;

second image forming means for forming an image  
10 by performing halftoning without reducing a pixel value indicative of a printing color component, while reducing an amount of exposure light used in the electrophotography method at a predetermined rate;

determining means for determining whether or not  
15 a thin-line-emphasis image forming is designated; and

control means for controlling said apparatus to perform image forming by either said first image forming means or said second image forming means, based on a determination result of said determining means.

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8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, said apparatus receiving printing data from an external host computer,

wherein said determining means makes  
25 determination based on a predetermined command included in the printing data.

9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said determining means makes determination in page unit.

5 10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein in the host computer, a printer driver started upon a printing operation is installed, and the thin-line emphasis is selected in a setting screen of the printer driver.

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11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein in the host computer, a printer driver started upon a printing operation is installed, data transferred from an upper process is analyzed,  
15 statistical data is taken for each type of data in page unit, and in a case where it is determined that the data includes many thin lines and small texts, a command designating a thin-line emphasis mode is automatically generated without user's designation,  
20 otherwise a command designating a non thin-line emphasis mode is generated.

12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a thin-line emphasis mode or a non thin-line  
25 emphasis mode can be switched in accordance with the type of objects.